



USAID
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USAID Monthly Newsletter

Kazakhstan



Since 1998, TB mortality has declined by half. Photo: AED

Tuberculosis (TB) Mortality Reduced by Nearly 50%

Since 1998, when USAID began its TB programs in Kazakhstan, TB mortality rates in the country have decreased by half. While the TB rates in the country are still among the highest in the world, USAID's programs have helped the Government of Kazakhstan make serious progress. With USAID support, the WHO-recommended TB treatment strategy DOTS has been adopted countrywide, TB surveillance systems have been created, and 10 training centers across the country have trained over 1,000 doctors about TB DOTS approaches. USAID's TB control and prevention program, implemented by Project HOPE, have also introduced a system of drugs management, quality control systems for laboratory work, and conducted extensive informational work to educate communities about the symptoms and treatment of TB. Moreover, USAID-supported Almaty Oblast has reached the highest success rates countrywide in treating new TB cases, 80.6%.



GDA with ExxonMobil aimed to improve maternal and child health. Photo: USAID

USAID Concluded Four Years of Health GDAs with ExxonMobil

USAID and ExxonMobil have completed their fourth Global Development Alliance, focused on improving maternal and child health in Kazakhstan's capital Astana. Since 2004, these GDAs trained a number of obstetricians-gynecologists, neonatologists, and midwives from all medical facilities, as well as teachers from five medical academies on antenatal care. Three Prenatal Schools have been opened and already trained over 6,000 women and 740 spouses. The initiative helped reduce the use of pain medication, improve management of deliveries, and enhance newborn and maternal outcomes. Approximately 2000 women who give birth in Astana annually and their infants are served by health care facilities implementing the new approaches in prenatal care, delivery and post partum care. Due to demonstrated success, the Government of Kazakhstan has decided to adopt this effective Perinatal Care experience nationally.

Kyrgyzstan



USAID Staff and Projects Receive Official Appreciation from the Kyrgyz Government

In an extraordinary expression of gratitude, the Government of Kyrgyzstan has recently presented awards to several USAID staff and project members. USAID's education specialist Myrza Karimov and the chief of the party for the new education project Quality Learning received awards for the support to education reforms. Two members of the USAID Business Environment Improvement project were awarded by the Prime Minister for helping improve the



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country's rating in the World Bank's Doing Business report. This year, the Doing Business Report named Kyrgyzstan one of the top three reformers of the business environment in the world.

Loan Portfolio Guarantee Will Promote Tuition Financing

To increase access to higher and vocational education, in October, USAID signed the Loan Portfolio Guarantee Agreements with two Kyrgyz financial institutions for tuition financing. This initiative aims to create a replicable, private-sector tuition financing model that would provide students with more choice as to which education institutions they could attend. Over the next seven years USAID will guarantee up to \$1.5 million in student loans to be issued by the Microcredit Company Kompanion and the Kyrgyz Investment and Credit Bank, and up to 50% of losses on a portfolio of student loans.

Millennium Challenge Account Reform Reaps Successes

A recent study of the Kyrgyz Republic judicial budgeting system indicated that the Judicial Council has "made an excellent first year effort to provide leadership and oversight in the planning and formulation of the Kyrgyz Judicial Budget." The study was conducted as part of the USAID Judicial Reform Assistance Project within the MCA Threshold Program to evaluate the progress the country is making with support from USAID and MCA. In a step towards greater judicial independence and effectiveness, USAID and MCA program helped create the Judicial Council in 2008. The Council was granted by law a wide range of policy-making duties and responsibilities for internal operation of the judicial system, including control of budgeting for the courts.

Nearly \$500,000 Million Assistance to Deal with 2007-2008 HIV/AIDS Outbreak among Children

On the eve of HIV/AIDS Day, USAID donated over \$200,000-worth of medical supplies to the Kyrgyz Ministry of Health for HIV/AIDS prevention and control among children following the 2007-2008 pediatric HIV outbreak in Osh Oblast, southern Kyrgyzstan. The donation includes 40,000 HIV/AIDS kits to test all young children admitted to hospitals to prevent further HIV/AIDS spread. Children wards will also receive about 2.5-year supply (4,000 units) of subclavian catheters to protect the children from acquiring infections. Additionally, USAID helped train 380 doctors and nurses from the country's key clinics on infection prevention and control in the clinical setting.

A New Agreement to Support Basic Education

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between USAID and the Kyrgyz Ministry of Education and Science to launch a new USAID basic education project, Quality Learning. Running until September 2012 the project will support implementation of the Kyrgyz National education strategies, including the Fast Track Initiative Catalytic Grant. This multi-faceted project will promote a number of changes in the education sector, including application of modern teaching and student assessment methodologies; introduction of



Education loans will enable Kyrgyz students receive better schooling.
Photo: USAID



Head of the Kyrgyz Judicial Council signs cooperation agreement with USAID.
Photo: USAID



USAID is helping Kyrgyzstan improve HIV/AIDS control and prevention.
Photo: USAID



New education program seeks to improve learning outcomes for Kyrgyz children.
Photo: AED



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formative assessment techniques into in-service and pre-service training programs; participation of teachers in curriculum and education policy development; and use of efficient school financing and management systems.

Tajikistan

USAID Helps Improve Business Environment in Tajikistan

The President of Tajikistan recently signed a law that decreased the charter capital required for registering a business from approximately \$2,000 to \$150. This change resulted from the extensive efforts by the USAID Business Environment Improvement project. The decrease in required charter capital will ease the opening of the business in the country where \$150 is more than the average salary of a teacher. It is also expected to enhance the country's ranking in the World Bank's Doing Business report.

USAID Expands Network of Family Medicine Centers

On November 4, USAID helped open a new Family Medicine Center of Excellence in Panjakent, Sughd Oblast to provide modern, expert medical care to oblast residents. Established as part of the City Health Center, the family medicine center will offer the community a package of quality medical services and serve as a base for continuing medical education of the health workers and family medicine training. The availability of highly qualified family doctors is critical to the successful introduction of family medicine in Tajikistan. The Ministry of Health estimates that countrywide expansion of primary health care services will require 4,000 family medicine specialists. Strengthening primary health care and introducing family medicine services are priorities of the National Health Reform Concept and the National Poverty Reduction Strategy of Tajikistan.



Tajiks will have to pay much less to register new businesses.

Photo: USAID



USAID helps provide quality primary health services to families across Tajikistan.

Photo: USAID

Turkmenistan

International Accounting Standards - at Universities

USAID's Economic Reforms to Enhance Competitiveness Project launched an 18-month training program on International Financial Reporting Standards for Turkmen university professors. This initiative aims to help Turkmenistan incorporate international standards into university accounting curricula. The courses are part of the USAID-supported Russian-language Certified International Professional Accountant (CIPA) Certification Program. Once CIPA courses are taught by institutes of higher education in Turkmenistan, students will be able to take professional exams offered by the CIPA Examination Network and become certified accountants. The first group of thirty professors will start the program in December 2008. The Supreme Council and USAID will also open a training and recourse center to assist Turkmen professors in updating the curricula. This program will be implemented in Turkmenistan in cooperation with the Supreme Council for Science and Technology under the President of Turkmenistan.



USAID trains Turkmen specialists in international accounting standards.

Photo: USAID



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New Computer Center to Help Introduce Modern Technologies in Classrooms

A multimedia learning center was opened by IREX and USAID at the Supreme Council of Science and Technology under the President of Turkmenistan in October 2008 to help prepare educators and various other specialists utilize computer technologies. The new center is one of five in Turkmenistan that are administered by IREX under the USAID-funded the Internet Access and Training Program (IATP). The program provides helps integrate information and communications technologies into educational process. The program trains over 100 Turkmen per month; its network of multimedia learning centers has already provided computer and internet services to 15,000 users in Ashgabat, Turkmenabat, Dashoguz, and Balkanabat. USAID and IREX equipped the center with nine computers connected to the high-speed Internet, as well as various cutting-edge educational technology. IREX will train the Supreme Council members and staff, as well as Turkmen educators to use computer-based technologies and student-centered methods in the classroom.



IATP centers teach computer skills to Turkmen citizens.
Photo: USAID

Uzbekistan

Uzbek Youth - for Healthy Lifestyle

About 9000 young people in nine cities of the country have taken part in HIV prevention activities organized by the USAID CAPACITY project this autumn. Together with the Social Initiative Support Fund, CAPACITY ran a series of events entitled "We are for healthy lifestyle; we have no time for anything else," for the Uzbek youth in Bukhara, Navoi, Samarkand, Karshi, and other cities. The participants of the events were college and university students as well as young people who are out of schools. During the campaign, NGO volunteers conducted interactive sessions on prevention of HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, and drug use. The campaign was organized as part of the "Year of Youth" proclaimed by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.



Thousands of youths participated in HIV/AIDS information campaigns.
Photo: USAID

Uzbekistan Conference on Elections Brings Together Experts from Twenty Countries and Many Disciplines Related to Governance

Seeking to open a dialogue on elections in the run-up to the December 2009 Parliamentary elections, USAID (in coordination with the Foundation for Regional Policy, OSCE and the National Democratic Institute) sponsored a three-day conference in Tashkent. Well attended by Uzbekistani representatives—from academicians, parliamentarians and representatives from the Elections Committee—as well as international experts, the conference tackled issues such as voter education, adherence to election legislation, the role of NGOs and media in elections, and the development of political parties. The conference was informative for all participants and gave Uzbekistani participants insight into international standards and protocols for elections. Similarly, international attendants from Europe, the US, and Asia were able to learn more about how the political process works in Uzbekistan and gain a greater understanding of the opportunities and constraints of elections work in the country.



Uzbekistan familiarizes with international practices for elections processes.
Photo: USAID